

HB118
Revise Distribution of 9-1-1 Funds

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1-12-09
HB 118

Proponent Testimony by Becky Berger
Information Technology Services Division (ITSD)
Department of Administration
444-1966

Before the
House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee
January 12, 2009

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Becky Berger. I am the 9-1-1 Program Manager in the Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), within the Department of Administration. The Statewide 9-1-1 Program is administered by the Department. With me today is Jeff Brandt an analyst with ITSD.

The purpose of this legislation is to update current 9-1-1 statutes in 2 areas based on recommendations made in a Legislative Audit Division Performance Audit in November 2007.

The **first** change will provide the department the authority to request specific 9-1-1 jurisdiction information and to impose penalties for non-compliance. The audit recommended the Department seek authority to require local governments to provide comprehensive program information and expand its compilation and reporting of management information for statewide 9-1-1 activities. Currently, the statute only provides the Department authority to monitor expenditures. We will work with the 9-1-1 Advisory Council to develop standard reporting requirements for all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) or dispatch centers. The Audit identified possible reports such as the number of emergency 9-1-1 calls, number of non-emergency 9-1-1 calls and percent of calls from landline, wireless and other technologies such as voice over internet protocol (VOIP). Upgrades to enhanced 9-1-1 provide specific statistical information that was not available in basic 9-1-1. The current 9-1-1 network and equipment has the ability to record some of this data and provide reports so this request would not create an administrative burden on the Counties or dispatch centers. As pointed out in the audit, this establishes best management practices necessary for oversight and administration purposes.

The **second** change revises the distribution of wireless 9-1-1 funds to address an inequity in the current revenue distribution criteria.

I'll start by explaining the statute and formula and then walk you through the handout.

A small county sunset provision divides the wireless 9-1-1 revenues such that 84% is distributed to all counties on a per capita basis. The remaining 16% is divided evenly to counties with 1% or less of the population. Using the current 2000 census

information there are 31 counties in Montana with less than 1% of the population that are eligible for the 16%. The current distribution methodology results in 16 counties (with population of 1% to 2.9%) receiving less than the counties that are eligible for the small county provision. This proposal adjusts the distribution to ensure all receive at least the same amount as those that qualify under the small county provision. The small county provision will sunset in 2011. At that time the 9-1-1 funds will be based solely on population.

The handout I provided reflects the Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 Allocation for 4th Quarter FY2008. The highlighted counties will benefit from this proposal. For example, Blaine County, qualifies for the 16% because their population is .78% and the allocation is a little over \$11,000 for the 4th quarter 2008. Now, look at Beaverhead County with 1.02% of the population. They receive only a little over \$6,800 even though they have a higher population than Blaine County. This proposal will allow the Program to adjust the distribution to ensure that a 9-1-1 jurisdiction or wireless service provider fund does not receive less than the amount allocated to those that qualify for the 16%.

There will be no increase in FTEs and the proposals have been endorsed by the 9-1-1 Advisory Council.

I urge your support for this legislation. I am available to answer any questions.

Thank you.

**Wireless Enhanced 911
Allocation
4th Quarter FY2008**

COUNTY	POPULATION 2000 CENSUS	% OF STATE POPULATION	ALLOCATION AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	9,202	1.02%	\$6,821.08
BIG HORN	12,671	1.40%	\$7,389.63
BLAINE	7,009	0.78%	\$11,013.32
BROADWATER	4,385	0.49%	\$11,013.32
CARBON	9,552	1.06%	\$6,821.08
CARTER	1,360	0.15%	\$11,013.32
CASCADE	80,357	8.91%	\$46,884.75
CHOUTEAU	5,970	0.66%	\$11,013.32
CUSTER	11,696	1.30%	\$6,821.25
DANIELS	2,017	0.22%	\$11,013.32
DAWSON	9,059	1.00%	\$6,821.25
DEER LODGE	9,417	1.04%	\$6,821.08
FALLON	2,837	0.31%	\$11,013.32
FERGUS	11,893	1.32%	\$6,937.30
FLATHEAD	74,471	8.25%	\$43,446.58
GALLATIN	67,831	7.52%	\$39,572.41
GARFIELD	1,279	0.14%	\$11,013.32
GLACIER	13,247	1.47%	\$7,726.75
GOLDEN VALLEY	1,042	0.12%	\$11,013.32
GRANITE	2,830	0.31%	\$11,013.32
HILL	16,673	1.85%	\$9,727.39
JEFFERSON	10,049	1.11%	\$6,821.08
JUDITH BASIN	2,329	0.26%	\$11,013.32
LAKE	26,507	2.94%	\$15,464.90
LEWIS AND CLARK	55,716	6.18%	\$32,509.72
LIBERTY	2,158	0.24%	\$11,013.32
LINCOLN	18,837	2.09%	\$10,990.92
MCCONE	1,977	0.22%	\$11,013.32
MADISON	6,851	0.76%	\$11,013.32
MEAGHER	1,932	0.21%	\$11,013.32
MINERAL	3,884	0.43%	\$11,013.32
MISSOULA	95,802	10.62%	\$55,896.44
MUSSELSHELL	4,497	0.50%	\$11,013.32
PARK	15,694	1.74%	\$9,159.70
PETROLEUM	493	0.06%	\$11,013.32
PHILLIPS	4,601	0.51%	\$11,013.32
PONDERA	6,424	0.71%	\$11,013.32
POWDER RIVER	1,858	0.21%	\$11,013.32
POWELL	7,180	0.80%	\$11,013.32
PRAIRIE	1,199	0.13%	\$11,013.32
RAVALLI	36,070	4.00%	\$21,044.55
RICHLAND	9,667	1.07%	\$6,821.08
ROOSEVELT	10,620	1.18%	\$6,821.08
ROSEBUD	9,383	1.04%	\$6,821.08
SANDERS	10,227	1.13%	\$6,821.08
SHERIDAN	4,105	0.46%	\$11,013.32
SILVER BOW	34,606	3.84%	\$20,192.24
STILLWATER	8,195	0.91%	\$11,013.32
SWEET GRASS	3,609	0.40%	\$11,013.32
TETON	6,445	0.71%	\$11,013.32
TOOLE	5,267	0.58%	\$11,013.32
TREASURE	861	0.10%	\$11,013.32
VALLEY	7,675	0.85%	\$11,013.32
WHEATLAND	2,259	0.25%	\$11,013.32
WIBAUX	1,068	0.12%	\$11,013.32
YELLOWSTONE	129,352	14.34%	\$75,466.07
TOTAL	902,195	100.00%	\$812,033.37
Counties receiving less			